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SUBJECT: TFKV01: KOSOVO TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT NO.

19

CLASSIFIED BY: M. TURNER, TASK FORCE COORDINATOR.

REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

ANTI-INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION IN MITROVICA

¶1. (SBU) U.S. Office Pristina reports a crowd of 1,200 gathered on the north side of the Mitrovica bridge, but the situation remained calm. Demonstrators burned the EU flag. (Kosovo TF/U.S. Office Pristina e-mail)

NO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH STATES RECOGNIZING KOSOVO

¶2. (SBU) Following a meeting with Russian First Deputy PM Medvedev, Serbian PM Kostunica announced Serbia would not have normal relations with nations recognizing Kosovo's independence "until they annul their decision," according to Embassy Belgrade. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade e-mail)

SERBIA ASSERTS CONTINUED RULE OF SERB AREAS IN KOSOVO

¶3. (U) PM Kostunica said Serbia intends to rule parts of Kosovo where "loyal citizens" look to Belgrade for government, according to press. Media also report the Serbian minister for Kosovo told UNMIK officials that Serbia would work to maintain peace and order "in the areas that it controls, where Serbs live," and would also provide jobs, schooling, and infrastructure. (Reuters)

DEMONSTRATIONS IN BANJA LUKA FEBRUARY 26

¶4. (C) Embassy Sarajevo reports mass demonstrations against Kosovo's independence will be held in Banja Luka, with protestors to be bused into the city. Banja Luka Branch Office will remain closed; the Embassy plans to issue a Warden Message. (Sarajevo 371)

¶5. (U) Minimize considered.
RICE